

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative during the personal interview conducted on January 30, 2009. Based on the matters discussed during that personal interview, Applicants have cancelled claims 25-27, 36, 28-29 and 40 without prejudice or disclaimer. The allowable subject matter of claims 25-27 has been incorporated into independent claim 24 (dependent claim 27 being deemed allowable by the Examiner); similarly, the allowable subject matter of claim 36 has been incorporated into independent claim 35. As a result, pending claims 24, 28-31, 35 and 37 are allowable.

Thus, the prior art rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are moot. In view of the above, it is submitted that all of the claims are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If there is any issue remaining to be resolved, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (202) 371-6371 so that resolution can be promptly effected.

It is requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response with the fee for such extensions and shortages in other fees, being charged, or any overpayment in fees being credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg LLP, Deposit Account No. **02-1010** (47353-46503).

Respectfully submitted,

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